



South Fayette Township School District

Committee Meeting of the Whole

Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2020
7:30 PM

The Committee Meeting of the Whole of the South Fayette Township Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Len Fornella with the Pledge of Allegiance. President Fornella announced an Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting to discuss personnel and/or legal issues.

Present In Person: Tom Iagnemma, Alan Vezzi, Len Fornella

Present Virtually: Todd Petrillo, Teresa Burroughs, Lena Hannah, Jen Iriti

Absent: William Ainsworth, Paul Brinsky

Others in Person: Fred Wolfe, Tucker Arensberg, P.C.; Dr. Kenneth F. Lockette, Superintendent; Director of Finance/Human Resources Brian Tony; Assistant to the Superintendent for Secondary Education Dr. Jeff Evancho; Assistant to the Superintendent for Elementary Education; Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield; Maintenance Manager Reggie Hale; Teachers Bryan Seybert, Cynthia Geisler, Superintendent's Assistant/Board Secretary, and attached list of virtual attendees

President Fornella announced the meeting is being recorded.

Brian Tony presented the 2021-2022 Budget Timeline and Index information:

- ◆ PDE budget index of 4.0%, which when applied to our current 26.7 mills, would be a maximum allowable millage increase of 1.068 mills
- ◆ One mill currently brings in \$1,392,356.00
- ◆ Recommend approval of a motion tonight not to exceed the 4.0% index
- ◆ Early June 2021 meetings, final 2021-2022 budget would need to be passed at the June 15, 2021 meeting; have to approved a proposed final budget at the first meeting in May 2021

Reggie Hale presented the following information on the condition of the stage curtains in the High School theatre:

- ◆ Average life span of stage curtains 12-15 years; curtains purchased/installed in 2002
- ◆ Front and middle curtains have moderate aging and minor tears
- ◆ Scenery curtains which hide the sets, have considerable dry rot and torn at the (weighted) bottom
- ◆ Pittsburgh Stage Inc. inspected all curtains and recommended the scenery curtains be replaced
- ◆ Scenery curtains scheduled to be replaced next summer; a second curtain found curtain severely torn; will need replaced for the proposed spring play; 12-16 week lead time
- ◆ All curtains are custom made and fire resistant
- ◆ Recommend approval this month to replace the scenery curtains; contingency money available

Brian Tony again reviewed the 2021-2022 budget index/timeline for those individuals viewing via YouTube who could not hear the original presentation.

Mark Keener presented the following information regarding a bridge used by the cross country teams near Sygan Road that crosses the creek:

- ◆ Water under the bridge causing the ground to erode, during the season it became dangerous for the runners, so the course was adjusted to bypass it
- ◆ Recently the bridge collapsed
- ◆ Had it looked at to replace the bridge with a permanent structure
- ◆ Move some dirt, install some drains and fill with rocks/gravel to make a permanent fix

The Board discussed previous bridge repairs, the estimated cost of \$7,200 to repair this bridge, requested additional bids to be obtained for approval to have the bridge replaced prior to next season.

Dr. Lockette reported the following

- ◆ PA Department of Health update – Pennsylvanians visiting other states are required to have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to their return to the commonwealth or to quarantine for 14 days upon return to PA; order takes effect November 20, 2020
- ◆ Allegheny County and township numbers have risen in the past two weeks: 527,500, and 288 in the last three days in the county; SF cumulative numbers were 255 last week, as of today 277 cumulative, up 22
- ◆ ACHD anticipates numbers to remain high or rise due to Thanksgiving gatherings
- ◆ Colleges closing or going remote; college students on break causing concern for communities
- ◆ Community spread due to unmasked social gatherings
- ◆ PADH considers Allegheny County in the “substantial” zone based on the metrics of incidence rate of 100,000 residents (100 or higher) and/or the percentage positivity rate per number of tests (10% or more) for a seven-day period; if the county is in the “substantial” zone for two consecutive weeks, which is likely, the state recommends full remote learning
- ◆ PDE Director met with Allegheny and Beaver County superintendents on November 16; many districts not following guidelines; looking at local or school data to determine whether to go remote or in person
- ◆ AIU superintendents indicated likely to be moving to remote learning after Thanksgiving, creating staffing challenges, many teachers have children in other districts that could take FFCRA leave thru December 31
- ◆ Reasons for districts going remote range from remaining compliant with state guidance, use of a mitigation strategy, struggles with staffing; some districts plan on holding the line as long as possible
- ◆ SF had five positive cases in the last week (all adults), none were related to school transmission; all related to household or out-of-school contact; district mitigation efforts working
- ◆ ACHD reports schools safest place, only 8% from schools; closing schools across the board could increase community spread
- ◆ Concerned with expanding the Middle and High School to the four-day model; secondary students change classes multiple times throughout the day and in mixed groups; recommend staying in the hybrid/cyber academy model and asynchronous Wednesdays, and re-evaluate after the winter break
- ◆ Recommend to keep open as long as possible, no school transmission numbers and no current staffing issues
- ◆ Working on contingency plans should the need to go fully remote occur on short notice; parents and guardians also need to be prepared; instruction would mirror the already established cyber program, using synchronous and asynchronous learning

The ES and IS building principals provided an update that everything is going so well in their buildings, students are excited to back in class four days per week; positive feedback from parents; teachers did fantastic job creating a ‘first’ day of school; same safety protocols in place; splitting classes for lunch and recess.

The Board discussed delaying the transition of the MS and HS to in-person learning until after the holiday break due to a sudden notification from the furniture vendor, K-Log, the furniture will be delayed for several months; the implications to the student schedules and daily staffing issues if a decision is not made as soon as possible.

Consent Agenda

1. The Board considered approval of the Minutes from the following Board Meetings:

Special Meeting	October 13, 2020
Committee Meeting	October 20, 2020
Regular Meeting	October 27, 2020

2. The Board considered approval of the following Financial Reports which have been reviewed by the Superintendent and Secondary Administration:

Athletic Fund	Mark Keener
High School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce
Middle School Activity Fund	Rebecca Bruce

3. The Board considered approval of expenditures that were submitted for Board review to be approved at the Regular Board Meeting.

Superintendent’s Monthly Report – Dr. Kenneth Lockette

Dr. Lockette referred to Dr. Herring for the SHOUT event scheduled:

- ◆ November 18 – Religions of the World virtual event hosted by the SHOUT students; panel discussion with leaders from six different religions; link to attend will be the website; first partnership with the Green Building Alliance and Remake Learning

Business Office

Iagnemma seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Network Systems Administrator Rob Warfield for the Board to ratify the November 9, 2020, email approval from the Board for the purchase and installation of 8 microphones and receiver from CoStars vendor Open Systems Pittsburgh, LLC, in the amount of \$10,928.00. The cost will come from the 2020-2021 Technology budget.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the following increase/decrease in Fund Balance designations retroactive to June 30, 2019.

	<u>June 30, 2019</u>	<u>June 30, 2020</u>
• Commitment for OPEB	\$7,692,908.00	\$7,692,908.00
• Administrative Assignment -	\$3,838,926.00	\$6,180,345.00
Commitment for 2020-2021 Budget Deficit		
• Commitment for Capital Projects	\$7,949,924.00	\$8,949,924.00
• Commitment for PSERS	\$5,496,870.00	\$4,500,000.00
• Restricted (Healthcare)	\$ 450,558.00	\$ 474,332.00
• Unassigned	\$1,895,046.00	\$ 749,701.00

And in accordance with Act 1 of 2006, and on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony the Board approved the resolution for any property tax increase for the 2021-2022 fiscal year not to exceed the district’s base index of 4.0%. A copy of the approved resolution will be filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in accordance with the provision of Act 1 of 2006. By doing so the Board adopts Resolution 20-10 Not to Exceed the Index.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Finance Brian Tony, and Maintenance Manager Reggie Hale for Board approval to award the bid for elevator service for all school buildings and the Stadium to Industrial Commercial Elevator for a three (3) year contract at a cost of \$2,280.00 per

year for a total cost of \$6,840.00. The emergency service mechanic regular time rate will be \$169.00/hour and the mechanic overtime rate will be \$287.00/hour.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to provide telephone voice interpretation for non-English speaking parents and families for the period effective February 10, 2021, through February 10, 2022. The cost is a one-time annual fee of \$120 with payment of actual usage costs at a rate not to exceed \$0.90 per minute.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Maintenance Manager Reggie Hale for Board approval of the purchase and installation of new back (scenery) curtains for the High School theatre from CoStars vendor Pittsburgh Stage Inc. at a total cost of \$8,460.00. This is not a budgeted item, but will be paid for out of the contingency budget.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE MOTIONS.

There were no comments from the in-person attendees or via email at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

Personnel

Petrillo seconded Iriti on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following (call as needed) substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Wendy Yonkers, Elementary K-6/Elementary Principal K-6/Supvr Curriculum & Inst. PK-12, pending receipt of required documents
- Christine Diyanni, SmartStart Program, pending receipt of required documents
- Sydney Lerda, SmartStart Program, pending receipt of required documents

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Administrators for Board approval of the following support staff requests for a leave of absence based on the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) with effective dates to be determined:

- Charlotte Rudolph, Intermediate School Music teacher
- Amber Greenwood, Intermediate School Guidance Counselor
- Emily Bigley, Elementary School Grade 1 teacher
- Lori Leroux, Intermediate School Enrichment Teacher
- Sondra Carmen, Intermediate School Food Service
- Jennifer Bryan, Intermediate School Food Service
- Helen Cardillo, High School Classroom Paraeducator

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler, and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval to hire the following as Classroom Paraeducators in the Elementary School, pending receipt of required documents. The probationary rate is \$14.73 per hour, after completion of a successful probationary period the rate will be \$18.41 per hour:

- Lauren Crossan
- Marilyn Werner

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the employment contract for Christopher Juzwick, Assistant Director of Finance effective January 11, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler, and Elementary School Principal Laurie Gray for Board approval of the resignation of Kelly DiGiacomo, Personal Care Paraeducator in the Elementary School. Her last day of employment will be December 1, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Dr. Rachel Andler, Director of Student Support Services effective on or about January 31, 2021.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and High School Principal Dr. Laura Hartzell for Board approval of the leave of absence request for Hannah McGuire, High School Science teacher effective on or about February 12, 2021.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Elizabeth Kline, Special Education teacher in the Intermediate School with an effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Christine Sharrer, Classroom Paraeducator in the Intermediate School effective with an effective date to be determined.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Intermediate School Principal Tom Kaminski for Board approval of the intermittent FMLA leave of absence request for Jennifer Drazick, Substitute Special Education teacher in the Intermediate School effective retroactive to October 20, 2020.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Transportation Brandon Soubie for Board approval of the retirement/resignation of Patricia Zombek as a Bus Driver. Her last day worked will be June 11, 2021. Ms. Zombek has been employed in the District since September 2007.

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the following substitute rates for the 2020-2021 school year, effective November 25, 2020:

Personal Care Paraeducator	\$13.50 per hour
Classroom Paraeducator	\$12.50 per hour

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Finance Brian Tony for Board approval of the following substitute nurse rates effective for the 2020-2021 school year:

Certified School Nurse	\$250.00 per day
Registered Nurse	\$ 90.00/Day for Days 1-30
	\$100.00/Day for Days 31+

And on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Athletic Director Mark Keener, along with Head Football Coach Joe Rossi, Head Volleyball Coach Scott Sundgren, Head Golf Coach Bob Ruffolo, Head Boys Soccer Coach Rob Eldridge, Head Girls Soccer Coach Katie Munnell, Head Cross Country Coach Joe Winans, Head Girls Basketball Coach Bryan Bennett, and Head Cheerleading Coach Maggie Conosciuto recommend Board approval of the following compensations for the fall 2020 season:

Football

Head Coach	Joe Rossi	\$10,635.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Ben Maracek	\$5,100.00

Assistant Varsity Coach	Mike Slencak	\$5,000.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Casey Phillips	\$4,100.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Ryan Faraci	\$5,000.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Jim Wilson	\$3,400.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Kraig King	\$4,100.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Scott Litwinovich	\$4,840.00
Head 7/8th Grade Coach	Rick Chaussard	\$3,400.00
Assistant 7/8th Grade Coach	Wesley Chappel	\$3,400.00
Assistant 7/8th Grade Coach	Josh Patterson	\$1,600.00

Girls Volleyball

Head Coach	Scott Sundgren	\$7,670.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Danielle Rudolph	\$5,000.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Alison Mortensen	\$5,000.00

Boys Golf

Head Coach	Bob Ruffolo	\$5,175.00
Assistant Coach	Shane Coyne	\$2,720.00

Boys Soccer

Head Coach	Rob Eldridge	\$7,670.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Joe Luxbacher	\$6,500.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Sean Courtemanche	\$5,000.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Nolan Levine	\$6,500.00
Head 7/8th Grade Coach	Ben Laughton	\$4,960.00

Girls Soccer

Head Coach	Kaitlyn Munnell	\$7,670.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Nick Rosser	\$6,630.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Sarah Nee	\$6,140.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Christina Sweeney	\$2,600.00
Head 7/8th Grade Coach	Chelsea Faynor	\$3,995.00
Assistant 7/8th Grade Coach	Nicole Bianco	\$3,595.00

Girls Golf

Head Coach	Rocky Violi	\$5,175.00
Assistant Coach	Matt Bacco	\$2,720.00

Cross Country (Boys/Girls)

Head Coach	Joe Winans	\$4,695.00
Assistant Varsity Coach	Julia Denison	\$2,295.00
Head 7/8th Grade Coach	Matt Timcheck	\$2,295.00

7th/8th Grade Girls Basketball

Head 7th Grade Coach	Rebecca Braithwaite	\$5,127.50
Head 8th Grade Coach	Olesia Stasko	\$5,127.50

Girls Tennis

Head Coach	Brian Garlick	\$4,405.00
Assistant Coach	Katherine Deitrick	\$2,230.00

Assistant Athletic Director

Matt Bacco should receive half of his pay in December 2020 which is \$3,835.00 (half of \$7,670.00). The other half will be paid in June 2021.

Cheerleading

Competitive Cheerleading

Maggie Conoscuito

Should receive half of her pay in December 2020 which is \$1,842.50 (half of \$3,685.00). The other half will be paid in June 2021.

Elizabeth Frambes

Should receive half of her pay in December 2020 which is \$1,000.00 (half of \$2,000.00). The other half will be paid in June 2021.

Team Cheerleading

Maggie Conoscuito

Should receive half of her pay in December 2020 which is \$3,095.00 (half of \$6,190.00). The other half will be paid in June 2021.

Kristina Schelb

Should receive half of her pay in December 2020 which is \$2,750.00 (half of \$5,500.00). The other half will be paid in June 2021.

Elizabeth Frambes

Should receive half of her pay in December 2020 which is \$1,870.00 (half of \$3,740.00). The other half will be paid in June 2021.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS ON THE ABOVE MOTIONS.

There were no comments from the in-person attendees or via email at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

Education

There were no additional items discussed.

Transportation

There were no items discussed.

Athletics

There were no items discussed.

Construction

There were no items discussed.

Miscellaneous

1. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities.

2. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 113.2 Behavior Support.
3. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Director of Student Support Services Dr. Rachel Andler for Board approval of the first reading of PSBA Policy 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information.
4. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Safety and Security Co-Coordinator Tyler Geist and Kevin Maurer for Board approval of the first reading of PSBA Policy 709 Building Security.
5. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Safety and Security Co-Coordinator Tyler Geist and Kevin Maurer for Board approval of the first reading of revised Board Policy 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response.
6. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Safety and Security Co-Coordinator Tyler Geist and Kevin Maurer for Board approval of the first reading of PSBA Policy 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies.
7. The Board considered the recommendation of the Superintendent and Safety and Security Co-Coordinator Tyler Geist and Kevin Maurer for Board approval of the first reading of PSBA Policy 805.2 School Security Personnel.

SUSPENSION OF BUSINESS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS

There were no comments at this time from the in-person attendees.

The following were email comments from YouTube viewers:

Cara Satira, Bella Danyelle Ct; is the district still planning on holding the keystone exams?

Russ Boyce, Crestwood Drive; If the action is taken to push 4 day learning out past the December 1st date, what is the effect of families moving from hybrid to cyber beginning December 1st? This decision was to be given to families after the first 9 weeks then it was pushed to December 1st. I would hope the date won't keep moving from what was promised at the onset. Thank you for your time and effort in these trying times.

Dr. Evancho responded to Cara Satira's email question that the District is planning to continue with the Keystone Exams at this time.

Iriti seconded Vezzi on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistants to the Superintendent, and Administrators for Board approval to postpone the transition to the 4-day in person model for students in grades 6-12 originally scheduled for December 1, 2020. The tentative transition start date of January 11, 2021, is to give the Administration time to re-evaluate the latest COVID information.

Email comment received:

Jen Rosato, Turnberry Ln; Please respect the recommendation made by the Superintendent, and vote to delay the transition to the 4 day in-person model for middle and high school. I have children in both buildings, and would feel much more comfortable waiting until after the winter break to reconsider. The numbers were not as high when we had to make the decision whether or not our children would have to return in person. Making a decision on the 24th is too little notice for administrators and staff to adequately prepare the schedules and buildings. Also, this is stressful for all of us, making students wait

week to week for decisions will only elevate this stress. Please vote to delay the start of the 4 day in person model. Hybrid is working. Thank you for all of your hard work and diligence.

There were no additional comments at this time.

Roll Call – All Yes

President Fornella added he voted yes, but would have preferred to wait until next week.

The Board asked for the name of the original vendor of the furniture, K-Log, to be added to the minutes.

Iagnemma seconded Vezzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Voice Vote – All Yes

Cynthia Geisler, Board Secretary